



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER  
LLP  
901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20001-4413

COPY MAILED

MAY 23 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :  
Tognazzini :  
Application No. 08/940,020 : Decision on Petition for  
Filing Date: September 27, 1997 : Patent Term Extension  
Attorney Docket No.: 4173.0348 :  
For: MAGNETORESISTANCE EFFECT :  
DEVICE HAVING HARD MAGNETIC :  
FILM STRUCTURAL BODY :  
:

The above-identified application has been forwarded to the undersigned for consideration on a petition for patent term extension entitled "Application For Patent Term Extension under 37 CFR 1.705(b)," received on May 4, 2006.

The petition is GRANTED.

Petitioner notes that the Notice of Allowance dated February 9, 2006, in the above-identified application incorrectly stated that the patent term extension is 1,047 days. Petitioner states that applicant is entitled to 931 days of patent term extension, not the 1,047 days of extension as stated in the Notice of Allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 154(b) provides for patent term extension for appellate review, interference and secrecy order delays in applications filed on or after June 8, 1995 and before May 29, 2000, and, as amended by the "American Inventors Protection Act of 1999," enacted November 29, 1999, as part of Public Law 106-113, for those delays and others in applications filed on or after May 29, 2000

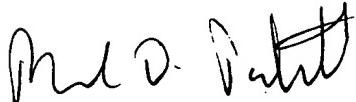
A Notice of Appeal was filed in the above-identified application on June 6, 2000. On April 18, 2003, the Board of Appeals and Interferences reversed the decision of the examiner in the above-identified application. Since the above-identified application was filed after June 7, 1995, there is no terminal disclaimer due to the issue of another patent claiming subject matter that is not patentably distinct from that under appellate review, and issuance of the application as a patent was delayed due to appellate review resulting in a reversal of an adverse decision of patentability, the patent to issue from the application is entitled to an extension of the patent term. The period of delay in the above-identified application is the period beginning on June 6, 2000, the date that the Notice of Appeal was filed and ending on April 18, 2003, the date of the final decision in favor of the applicant. Three years after the

earliest effective filing date of the application is September 29, 2000. Accordingly, the period of extension is required to be reduced pursuant to 37 CFR 1.701(d)(1) by the amount of time prior to three years after the filing date of the application. As a result, the first period of extension is **932 days**, the period from September 29, 2000 to April 18, 2003, including the beginning and end dates.

After mailing of this decision, the above-identified application will be forwarded to Office of Publications for further processing. The patent, if issued, will include an indication that the patent term is extended by **932 days**.

The rules and statutory provisions governing the operations of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office require payment of a fee on filing each petition. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7). The Petition fee \$200 for the petition under 37 CFR 1.705(b) is not required for this petition under 37 CFR 1.181 and the fee has been refunded to petitioner's Deposit Account (06-0916).

Telephone inquiries with regard to this communication should be directed to Mark O. Polutta at (571) 272-7709.



Mark O. Polutta  
Senior Legal Advisor  
Office of Patent Legal Administration  
Office of the Deputy Commissioner  
for Patent Examination Policy